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ABSTRACT

In fall 1999, for the seventh time since 1991, all Wake County Public School System (WCPSS), North Carolina, parents were asked to give their opinions on school and district issues. The results are reported in this document by school level: elementary, middle, and high school. Although 25% of Wake County's students are African Americans, only 17% of the returned high school forms were from parents of African American students. Overall, a lower percentage of parents in all categories and all schools returned completed surveys in 1999 than in 1997. Fifty percent of all elementary and middle school parents returned surveys, but only 35% of high school parents returned surveys. Although the decline in return rate from 1997 to 1999 is a cause for concern, the results of the 1999 WCPSS survey are encouraging. Higher percentages of parents are agreeing that the school system is providing a high quality education and academically challenging their children. Comparisons of the WCPSS Parent Survey results with some of the most recent national surveys consistently indicate that parents have higher opinions about the quality of their own child's school than that of other schools in the area or public schools in general. Attached tables show final tallies of responses to all survey documents. (Contains 71 tables and 4 references.) (SLD)

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Eye on Evaluation

Evaluation and Research Department

July 2000 E&R Report No. 00.23

Results from the 1999 WCPSS Parent Survey

How Do Parent Opinions About WCPSS Compare to Local and National Attitudes Toward the Public Schools?

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Wake County Public Schools Evaluation and Research Department

WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Eye on Evaluation

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E&R Report No. 00.23 *July 2000*

RESULTS FROM THE 1999 WCPSS PARENT SURVEY

HOW DO PARENT OPINIONS ABOUT WCPSS COMPARE TO LOCAL AND NATIONAL ATTITUDES TOWARD THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

Author: Carol Speas

WCPSS Parent Surveys Compared over Time

In fall 1999, for the seventh time since 1991, all Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) parents were asked to give their opinions on school and district issues. The WCPSS Evaluation and Research Department sent 94,523 surveys home with students.

The results are reported by school level: elementary (K-5), middle (6-8), and high (9-12). More elementary (50%) and middle school parents (50%) returned surveys than high school parents (35%). Two other ways of looking at return rates are described below:

1. *What percentage of the overall student population is comprised of White, African-American and other students - and what percentage of the returned surveys falls within each category?* For example, although 25% of WCPSS high school students in fall 1999 were African-American, only 17% of the returned high school forms were from parents of African-American students. As shown in *Table 1*, parents of African-American students were underrepresented at all school levels.

Table 1: **Composition of Student Population and Returned Sample by Race & School Level**

	Elementary		Middle		High School	
	Percent of Population	*Percent of All Returns*	*Percent of Population*	*Percent of All Returns*	*Percent of Population*	*Percent of All Returns*
White	63	70	65	69	68	70
African-American	26	17	27	19	25	17
Other	11	13	8	12	7	13

Note: "Other" includes members of Alaskan/Native American, Hispanic, Asian-Pacific Islander, and Multi-Racial categories as well as students whose parents did not identify race of child.

2. *What percentage of parents within each category completed and returned the survey form, and is this changing over time?* Overall, as shown in *Table 2*, a lower percentage of parents – in all categories and school levels – completed the survey form in 1999 than in 1997.

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Table 2: **Percent of Parents Returning Surveys by Race and School Level.**

	Elementary		Middle		High School	
	1997	1999	1997	1999	1997	1999
White	54.3	54.2	51.2	50.2	35.1	23.3
African-American	32.0	31.4	35.9	33.8	23.9	22.5
Other	75.8	59.2	88.6	72.4	69.8	62.3

Note: "Other" includes members of Alaskan/Native American, Hispanic, Asian-Pacific Islander, and Multi-Racial categories as well as students whose parents did not identify race of child.

The 1999 parent responses are less representative of the overall WCPSS parent population than in earlier years. Consistent with reports from previous years, we did not statistically adjust for the under-representation of specific groups for this report. However, strategies for addressing low response rate will be considered carefully when future surveys are conducted.

School and System Quality Compared to Previous Surveys

As shown in *Table 3*, parents' views on the overall quality of the WCPSS and of their own schools were generally as positive or more positive in fall 1999 than in earlier years. Parent satisfaction with individual schools remained greater at the elementary level than at the middle and high school levels. However, high school parent views in 1999 showed improvement on more items from previous surveys than the other two levels. In the discussions below, parent responses are reported as ranges, from lowest to highest percentage, across the three school levels (elementary, middle, and high).

The 1999 parent views of system quality were more positive than the 1997 survey at all levels, with the greatest increases at the elementary and high school levels. The majority of parents agreed the Wake County system was:

- providing a high quality educational program (ranged from 64-67%,depending upon the grade level, with increases of more than 3 percentage points at the elementary and high school levels),
- improving over time (53-64%),
- offering opportunities for success to all students (58-59%, up 3 percentage points at the high school level), and
- promoting understanding among students (62-67%, up 3 percentage points at the elementary level).

Fewer parents (43-45%) were satisfied with the attention received when calling central office, but responses to this item also showed some improvement over previous surveys.

When asked about their child's school, parents at all levels in 1999 responded more positively in regard to the following:

- the school providing a high quality educational program (77-85% across the levels, up 4 percentage points at the high school level),
- the school having high expectations for the child (70-85%), and
- their child being challenged academically in classes (72-80%, up 3 percentage points at the high school level).

Parent views of school facilities – attractiveness, cleanliness, safety – improved most at the high school level, but perceptions remained highest at the elementary school level. Parents also continued to show an increase in satisfaction on survey items related to school climate and student behavior. Although parents' perceptions of student behavior in 1999 were again less positive than their views on other school-related issues, these results were higher than in previous WCPSS surveys, particularly at the high school level (up 7 percentage points).

Table 3: **Percent of Parents Who Responded *Agree* or *Strongly Agree* to System and School Items**

Questions About the School System	Elementary			Middle			High		
	1995	1997	1999	1995	1997	1999	1995	1997	1999
System provides high quality education.	67.5	63.5	67.3	63.7	62.8	64.3	58.3	59.7	63.7
System improving over time.	63.2	62.4	64.0	55.7	54.5	56.6	45.9	50.3	53.1
Offers opportunities for success to all students.	52.1	56.5	57.7	50.5	56.3	57.5	46.5	55.7	59.2
Promotes understanding among students.	65.5	63.8	66.8	61.2	62.6	63.8	56.3	59.6	62.0
Prompt & courteous attention to CO calls.	43.0	43.6	43.2	43.2	43.8	44.4	37.6	41.6	44.6
Questions About Their Child's School	**Elementary**			**Middle**			**High**		
	1995	1997	1999	1995	1997	1999	1995	1997	1999
School provides a high quality education.	85.9	83.8	85.3	77.8	76.4	78.7	69.6	71.8	76.9
School has high expectations for my child.	83.7	84.9	85.2	73.4	74.6	75.9	65.5	67.3	69.7
Child is challenged academically in classes.	73.0	78.4	80.3	66.4	71.2	73.4	61.9	68.6	71.7
School building clean.	x	94.0	94.0	x	82.5	82.5	x	70.1	75.0
School building attractive.	x	88.5	88.4	x	77.4	74.7	x	70.0	74.3
School is a safe place to learn.	94.0	94.0	93.2	76.0	81.0	80.3	64.0	72.0	76.3
Students are well behaved.	70.6	76.7	79.3	47.9	54.6	56.6	37.4	47.6	54.4

Note: Shaded boxes represent an increase of 3 or more percentage points from the previous survey.

Parent Involvement and Communications

As shown in *Table 4*, more WCPSS parents in 1999 reported that they were:

- comfortable visiting their child's school (84-95%, up 3 percentage points at the high school level),
- informed of their child's progress regularly (72-91%, up 3 percentage points at the high school level),
- informed of school activities regularly (69-94%, also up 3 percentage points at the high school level),
- given sufficient opportunities for parent involvement (74-95%, up 3 percentage points at the middle school level and 7 percentage points at the high school level),
- receiving courteous attention when calling their school (73-92%),
- supported by the school when they shared concerns regarding their child (59-82%), and
- finding it easy to contact teachers at their school (62%-87%, up 3 percentage points at the high school level).

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Table 4: Percent of Parents Who Responded *Agree* or *Strongly Agree* to Items Related to Parent Involvement and Communication

Parent Involvement and Communication	Elementary			Middle			High		
	1995	1997	1999	1995	1997	1999	1995	1997	1999
Comfortable visiting child's school.	95.6	95.6	95.4	88	87.9	88.9	78.9	80.3	83.9
Informed of student progress regularly.	89.9	91.4	90.5	67.4	73.1	72.7	65.6	66.3	71.5
Informed of school activities.	92.1	93.7	93.5	73.4	75.6	75.9	66.3	65.6	68.6
Opportunities for parent involvement.	92.5	94.2	94.6	73.5	76.5	79.9	62.3	67.6	74.3
Courteous attention when calling school.	x	91.2	92.4	x	83.3	83.2	x	71.2	73.3
School supports parent's concerns.	80.1	81.5	81.7	63.8	66.9	67.5	50.8	56.4	59.2
Easy to contact teachers at my school.	89.3	88.2	87.0	70.1	67.8	67.4	58.8	58.9	61.9

Note: Shaded boxes represent an increase of 3 or more percentage points from the previous survey.

Local Gallup Surveys of Wake County Adults

In 1998 and again in 2000, the Gallup Organization conducted a study sponsored by the Raleigh *News and Observer,* A.J. Fletcher Foundation, and the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with Wake Education Partnership, a local non-profit education organization that supports the goals and mission of WCPSS. These surveys were designed to gauge the perceptions of Wake County residents, ages 18 and above, about WCPSS schools, the school district as a whole, and education issues in general. For local Gallup studies, a random telephone survey of 600 (1998) or 640 (2000) Wake County residents was conducted. Several items in the Gallup survey were identical to items in the WCPSS parent surveys, with respondents asked to agree or disagree with a series of statements.

The Gallup results serve at least three functions in relation to this report. First, they include respondents who are not parents, allowing a better measure of the total community. Second, they provide a way of cross-validating WCPSS parent survey results. Since they have a lower non-response rate, the Gallup results are less likely to be biased in either a positive or negative direction. Finally, the Gallup organization has high credibility with the public, based on a history of polling and methodology open to public and professional scrutiny.

System Quality

A majority of both local Gallup survey participants (Wake County adults) and WCPSS parents agreed that the school system is improving over time. Half (51%) of the adults polled by Gallup in 1998 and 59% in the more recent survey agreed that "The overall education program in this system is improving over time". This can be compared to the 53-64% of WCPSS parents who agreed that the system "is improving over time".

Half of the local Gallup respondents in both 1998 and 2000 agreed that "The overall education program in WCPSS is of high quality", compared to a higher percentage (64-67%) of WCPSS parents. As in the past, within the local Gallup sample, a higher percentage of public school parents (54%) agreed than did respondents who were not public school parents (48%), indicating that parents with children enrolled in the public schools have perceptions of higher quality. Related to quality, half of all adults in the 2000 local Gallup survey, as well as the public school

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parents within the group, agreed that "WCPSS offers opportunities for success to all students", and 58-59% of parents responding to the WCPSS Parent Survey agreed.

National and Local Comparisons

Grading the Schools

The 31st national Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup annual education poll asked approximately 1500 adults in the U.S. for their perceptions of the public schools. As on the two local Gallup surveys, one item asked respondents to grade the public schools in their communities on a scale of A to F. The percent of PDK/Gallup respondents assigning their local public schools a grade of A or B increased slightly in 1999 (from 46% to 49%). In contrast, for a second question requesting a grade for the nation's public schools, only 22% of the respondents assigned a grade of A or B. These ratings reaffirm what every annual national PDK/Gallup survey has shown: the closer the association with public schools, the higher the satisfaction with public schools.

Wake County adults surveyed by Gallup were asked how they would grade the Wake County Public System in the same way students are graded. This question is very similar to the national survey question in which respondents are asked to grade "the public schools in your community" and the WCPSS Parent Survey in which parents are asked to grade their child's school. Seventy-seven percent of WCPSS parents in 1999 (up from 70% in 1997) assigned their child's school a grade of A or B. Another 15% assigned a C, bringing the total of WCPSS parents giving a passing grade to Wake County schools to 92%, compared to 88% in 1997.

In addition to giving higher grades for schools in 1999, WCPSS parents continued to grade their schools more positively (A or B=77%) than did local/county residents (A or B=50%) and the public nationwide (A or B=49%). *Table 5* depicts the percent for each letter grade on the WCPSS, local Gallup, and national PDK/Gallup surveys of 1997-2000.

***Table 5:* Grades Given To Schools:**
WCPSS Parents, Local and National Gallup Respondents

	WCPSS Parents		Local Gallup Surveys		National PDK/ Gallup Surveys	
	1997	1999	1998	2000	1997	1999
A	28%	34%	4%	5%	10%	11%
B	42%	43%	42%	45%	36%	38%
C	18%	15%	40%	35%	31%	31%
D	4%	3%	8%	13%	9%	9%
Fail	1%	1%	2%	2%	5%	5%

Note. Shaded boxes represent an increase/decrease of 3 or more percentage points from the previous survey

Safety

In an open-ended question, PDK/Gallup respondents were asked to identify the biggest problem faced by schools in the community. In 1999, as in 20 other years since 1969, lack of discipline

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topped the list. Fighting/violence was next on the list. Related to this, respondents were asked another open-ended question as to what they would like to change in the public schools. The need for discipline, more control, and stricter rules topped this list. Despite the reported concern about discipline and fighting/violence on these survey items and national media attention to recent school shootings, 24% of the PDK/Gallup respondents still believed that the schools in their community were "very safe and orderly", and another 62% believed they were "somewhat safe and orderly". When public school parents among the PDK/Gallup group were asked about the school their oldest child was attending, the percentage choosing "very safe and orderly" increased to 42%, with another 50% selecting "somewhat safe and orderly".

At the local level, the percentage of adults agreeing that "Each public school is a safe place to learn" increased from 44% in 1998 to 57% in the 2000 local Gallup poll, an increase of 13 percentage points. In comparison, for the 1999 WCPSS Parent Survey, the percentage of respondents agreeing that "My child's school is a safe place to learn" ranged from 76-93%, indicating that the closer the relationship with schools, the higher the perception of safety. The WCPSS survey results also indicate that perceptions of safety decrease as school level increases: elementary (93%), middle (80%), and high school (76%). *Table 6* depicts the percent of agreement for the three types of survey statements regarding school safety, 1997-2000.

Table 6: **Percent of Agreement on School Safety: WCPSS Parent, Local Gallup, and National PDK/Gallup Surveys**

WCPSS *"My child's school is a safe place to learn."*		Local Gallup *"Each public school is a safe place to learn."*		National PDK/Gallup *"Public schools in my community are very safe and orderly."*	
1997	1999	1998	2000	1997	1999
72-94%	76-93%	44%	57%	32%	24%

Note: WCPSS parent agreement is reported as a range, from lowest to highest percent, across the three school levels.

Preparation for Future and Jobs

In a new question related to public school effectiveness, the 1999 national PDK/Gallup survey asked respondents for their perception of how well their oldest child was being prepared for tomorrow's job market. In what PDK's analysts called a "surprising result", 79% of parents polled believed that the education their child was receiving was either "very effective" or "somewhat effective" in preparing students for a changing job market.

Local Gallup survey results regarding job preparation were lower. While 81% of respondents to the 2000 local Gallup survey considered students being prepared to take a job of great or much importance among characteristics of a successful school, only 43% agreed that this was likely to be happening. Similarly, 92% of the parents within the local Gallup survey group considered another characteristic, preparing students for continuing on to higher education, of great or much importance, but only 43% indicated that this was likely happening. In contrast, about two-thirds (63%) of parents of high school students gave ratings of excellent or good when responding to the 1999 WCPSS survey question "How would you rate this school in helping your child prepare for jobs?" Additionally, 73% of them gave ratings of excellent or good to the question "How

would you rate this school in preparing your child for college?" Again, the closer the relationship with the schools, the higher the satisfaction with student preparation for the future.

Facilities

Regarding the nation's school facilities, 47% of the national PDK/Gallup respondents identified overcrowding as a "very serious" problem, followed by classrooms in poor physical condition (41%). When "very serious" and "somewhat serious" were combined for these two items, the responses were 74% and 64% respectively. In Wake County, on a one-to-five scale, 88% of the parents and 79% of the non-parents within the 2000 local Gallup survey considered a sound physical facility of great or much importance. At the same time, only 56% of them considered this likely to be happening, results similar to those of the national survey.

WCPSS parent perceptions of space and renovation needs varied by school level. In the 1999 survey, 36% (elementary) to 53% (high school) of the parents responded "yes" to the statement "My child's school is too crowded". Also, 27% (elementary) to 40% (high school) of the parents responded that "my child's school needs to be renovated", indicating views of greater need for space and renovation at the secondary levels.

Technology

Almost two-thirds of the national PDK/Gallup respondents selected technology as a high priority for federal funding of schools. Local Gallup respondents apparently viewed technology as a higher priority. Eighty percent of parents and 82% of non-parents in the 2000 local Gallup poll rated use of computers in classroom instruction as either an "important" or "very important" education outcome.

When asked for priorities regarding renovating/modernizing schools, 93-95% of the 1999 WCPSS parents reported that building computer labs was either "very important" or "somewhat important". When asked about home computers, 81% (elementary) to 88% (high school) of WCPSS parents reported that their child had access to a computer at home. As shown in *Table 7*, 75-81% of them also reported Internet access at home, and 61-64% of parents reported that they used e-mail either daily or weekly. The largest increases from 1997 to 1999 were in Internet access at home.

***Table 7*: Percent of WCPSS Parents Who Responded "Yes" to Items about Computer Usage**

	Elementary		Middle		High	
	1997	1999	1997	1999	1997	1999
Child has access to a computer at home.	70%	81%	77%	84%	79%	88%
Child has Internet access at home.	52%	75%	55%	76%	58%	81%
Parent uses e-mail either daily or weekly.	N/A	61%	N/A	60%	N/A	64%

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Diversity

In the 1999 national PDK/Gallup poll, respondent attitudes toward diversity varied with the specificity of questions. Overall, responses tended to be more positive when questions were more abstract or general. For example, 93% of all PDK/Gallup participants agreed that "acceptance of people of different races and ethnic backgrounds" is a value that should be taught to all public school students in their community. Also, 71% supported "acceptance of people who hold unpopular or controversial political or social views" as a value to be taught to all students. However, when questions were asked about the situation for their own child, attitudes differed for some parents. For example, 17% of the respondents reported that, assuming free choice of a public school, having their child exposed to a less diverse student body would be a "very important" factor in the selection process. Another 28% considered having a less diverse student body an "important" factor.

In Wake County, 85% of adults responding to the 2000 local Gallup poll rated "learning to respect those not like oneself, or an appreciation of diversity" as important or very important. Likewise, 93% of all respondents rated "fair treatment of all the children" as important or very important, although only 59% of the parents and 49% of the non-parents agreed that this was likely to be happening. When asked about some proposed actions that could be taken by WCPSS, local Gallup participants gave "high" or "top priority" ratings to the following statements:

- Assure equal access to school's resources (87%),
- Respond to needs of growing multicultural population (69%), and
- Maintain racial and economic diversity in schools (60%).

Nevertheless, when local Gallup respondents were asked how much they supported the use of some specific alternatives to maintain diversity within WCPSS, there was more variation in their responses. Alternatives receiving the most support were "creating more affordable housing in all areas of the county" (72%) and "expanding the magnet school concept to additional schools" (74%). Alternatives receiving least support were "limiting the number of low-performing students at each school" (35%), and "limiting the number of poor students at each school" (24%). Finally, in another response that may seem inconsistent with some of the earlier ratings, 79% of the local Gallup parents supported "having students attend the closest schools, even if it means schools may not be diverse." Overall, there was little difference between the responses of parents and non-parents within the local Gallup group. Responses of both national and local poll participants appear to reflect a pattern of general support for "acceptance of diversity" as a value to be taught to all students -- and less support for application/implementation of the practices to ensure diversity in local schools, particularly the school their own child attends.

WCPSS Parent Survey questions had a different focus: asking parents about the acceptance of diversity that currently existed in their child's school and in the system as a whole. The questions were an attempt to gauge progress in two important goals that mutually support each other: excellence in academic achievement and equity. Fifty-three percent (high school) to 83% (elementary) of the parents agreed with the statement "At my child's school, programs help students understand and get along with others". In response to the statement "Race relations at

my child's school are …", 59-77% of the parents rated race relations as good to excellent. When asked about the school system as a whole, 53-64% of the parents agreed that "WCPSS promotes understanding among the students", and 62-67% of them agreed that "WCPSS offers opportunities for success to all students". As shown in *Table 8*, in all instances ratings were highest at the elementary level and lowest at the high school level.

Table 8: **Percent of Parent Agreement on WCPSS Diversity Items, 1995-1999**

At My Child's School	Elementary			Middle			High		
	1995	1997	1999	1995	1997	1999	1995	1997	1999
Programs help students understand and get along with others.	76	82	83	57	60	61	49	50	53
Race relations are.... ("good" to "excellent")	70	76	77	51	63	64	38	52	59
School System									
Promotes understanding among students.	63	62	64	56	55	57	46	50	53
Offers opportunities for success to all.	66	64	67	61	63	64	56	60	62

Note 1: Percentages of agreement are shown as "agree" and "strongly agree" responses for three items -- and as "good" to "excellent" responses to one item, as indicated.
Note 2: Shaded boxes represent an increase of 3 or more percentage points from the previous survey.

Curriculum and Standards

About 60% of those surveyed in the 2000 national PDK/Gallup poll agreed that current achievement standards are "about right", while 33% indicated that standards are "too low". Almost 80% of poll participants favored a requirement that high school students take a standardized core curriculum focusing on English, math, science, and social studies – generally considered a method of raising standards.

Opinions regarding the teaching of values were last explored in the 1993 PDK poll, but few changes were noted in the 1999 responses. As in the earlier survey, 90% or more of respondents agreed that honesty, democracy, acceptance of different races and ethnic backgrounds, caring for family and friends, moral courage, and patriotism should be taught in the public schools.

When 1998 local Gallup poll respondents were asked to choose the top priorities for actions to be taken in the county schools, 89% chose "increase the standards for achievement" and "assure equal access". In the 2000 poll, respondents selected mastery of basics (97%), high academic standards (93%), challenging curriculum (89%), and students challenged to develop potential (92%) as *important* or *very important* characteristics of a very successful school. Next, respondents were asked to rate the likelihood of occurrence of those characteristics in the county schools. Although those ratings were lower than the priority ratings, the overall likelihood-of-occurrence ratings for curricular areas increased between the 1998 and 2000 polls. Ratings by parents were higher than those by non-parent poll participants.

Respondents to the 1999 WCPSS Parent Survey agreed that their child's school was providing a high quality educational program (77-85% across the levels) and that their child was being challenged academically in classes (72-80%). Additionally, parents agreed that their child's school was *excellent* or *good* at helping their children learn reading (80-89%), writing (78-89%), math (79-87%) social studies (80-84%), and science (80-82%). Although parent ratings were, in all instances, highest at the elementary level, gains were greatest at the high school level.

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Summary

Although the decline in return rate from 1997 to 1999 is a cause for concern, the results of the 1999 WCPSS Parent Survey are encouraging. Higher percentages of parents are agreeing that the school system is providing a high quality education and academically challenging their children.

Comparisons of the WCPSS Parent Survey results with the most recent national PDK/Gallup and local Gallup survey results consistently indicate that parents have higher opinions about the quality of their own child's school than that of other schools in the area or of public schools in general.

References

Attached tables show final tallies of responses to all survey items, reported by school level (elementary, middle, and high). Results from the national and local Gallup surveys can be found in the following documents:

- The Gallup Organization. (1999, October). The 31st Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes toward the Public Schools. Princeton, NJ: Rose, L., & Gallup, A.
- The Gallup Organization. (1997, August). The 29th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes toward the Public Schools. Princeton, NJ: Rose, L., Gallup, A., & Elam, S.
- The Gallup Organization for Wake Education Partnership (2000, April). Citizens' Perception Study 2000: Challenges and Priorities for Wake County Public Schools. Princeton, NJ: Anderson, G., & Bedi, T.
- The Gallup Organization for Wake Education Partnership (1998, March). Citizens' Perception Study 1998: Challenges and Priorities for Wake County Public Schools. Princeton, NJ: Clifton, D., Yuan, H., & Burns, K.

Attachments

WCPSS Parent Survey - Fall, 1999
All Elementary Schools

2. Child's Grade level

q2	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Pre-K	156	0.65	156	0.65
K	3637	15.22	3793	15.87
1st	3862	16.16	7655	32.03
2nd	4045	16.93	11700	48.96
3rd	4199	17.57	15899	66.53
4th	4002	16.75	19901	83.27
5th	3997	16.73	23898	100.00

Frequency Missing = 221

4. Total years child in any WCPSS school

q4	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
1 year or less	4492	18.85	4492	18.85
2 years	3736	15.68	8228	34.53
3 years	3490	14.65	11718	49.18
4 years	3010	12.63	14728	61.81
5 years	2900	12.17	17628	73.98
6 years or more	6200	26.02	23828	100.00

Frequency Missing = 291

WCPSS Parent Survey - Fall, 1999
All Elementary Schools

How would you rate this school in helping your child:

	N	Answer Options				Combined Options	
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Excellent/ Good	Fair/Poor
		%	%	%	%	%	%
Questions 5.a.-5.i.							
5.a. Learn reading skills	23,598	40.3	48.5	9.6	1.6	88.8	11.2
5.b. Learn writing skills	23,556	35.5	50.3	12.3	1.9	85.8	14.2
5.c. Learn mathematics skills	23,381	34.8	51.8	11.6	1.8	86.6	13.4
5.d. Learn social studies	22,724	26.3	56.4	15.4	1.9	82.7	17.3
5.e. Learn science	22,743	25.7	53.6	18.1	2.6	79.4	20.6
5.f. Develop sound physical fitness	23,087	28.2	52.7	16.5	2.6	80.8	19.2
5.g. Develop an appreciation for arts	23,281	32.1	49.3	15.9	2.7	81.4	18.6
5.h. Develop good character	23,203	36.8	51.8	10.3	1.0	88.7	11.3
5.i. Learn about the danger of alcohol and other drugs	22,027	28.2	50.2	17.8	3.8	78.4	21.6

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6. Source of most of news about WCPSS

q6	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Newsletters school or PTA	16081	77.17	16081	77.17
Television	1730	8.30	17811	85.47
Newspapers	2389	11.46	20200	96.93
Radio	154	0.74	20354	97.67
Internet	196	0.94	20550	98.61
Phone calls from school	289	1.39	20839	100.00

Frequency Missing = 3280

7. Amount of homework received weekly

q7	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
0-1 hours	5972	25.03	5972	25.03
2-4 hours	9746	40.85	15718	65.88
5-7 hours	5767	24.17	21485	90.05
8-10 hours	1805	7.57	23290	97.62
Over 10 hours	569	2.38	23859	100.00

Frequency Missing = 260

8. Amount of homework is

q8	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Too much	2175	9.14	2175	9.14
About right	19091	80.21	21266	89.35
Too little	1944	8.17	23210	97.52
None	591	2.48	23801	100.00

Frequency Missing = 318

9. Child has home access to computer

q9	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Yes	19456	81.45	19456	81.45
No	4430	18.55	23886	100.00

Frequency Missing = 233

10. Child has home access to Internet

q10	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Yes	16944	75.07	16944	75.07
No	5628	24.93	22572	100.00

Frequency Missing = 1547

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11. Frequency of parental email use

q11	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Not at all	5463	23.68	5463	23.68
Sometimes	3608	15.64	9071	39.33
Weekly	3986	17.28	13057	56.61
Daily	10009	43.39	23066	100.00

Frequency Missing = 1053

12. My child's bus has most often been

q12	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
On time	10156	43.97	10156	43.97
Early	259	1.12	10415	45.09
Late	1200	5.19	11615	50.28
Unpredictable	2542	11.00	14157	61.29
Not Applicable	8943	38.71	23100	100.00

Frequency Missing = 1019

13. Adequate communication with bus driver

q13	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Yes	6100	26.48	6100	26.48
No	2087	9.06	8187	35.54
No communication	5514	23.94	13701	59.48
Not applicable	9334	40.52	23035	100.00

Frequency Missing = 1084

14. Level of education expected of child

q14	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
High School	410	1.73	410	1.73
Some college/trade school	1091	4.61	1501	6.34
College graduate	11806	49.86	13307	56.20
Advanced degree(MA, PhD, MD, etc.)	10372	43.80	23679	100.00

Frequency Missing = 440

15. Race relations at school are

q15	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Excellent	3986	16.78	3986	16.78
Very good	6683	28.14	10669	44.92
Good	7679	32.33	18348	77.25
Fair	1868	7.87	20216	85.12
Poor	371	1.56	20587	86.68
Do not know	3163	13.32	23750	100.00

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		Answer Options										Combined		
		Strongly Agree		Agree		Unsure		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		SA+A	Undecided	D+SD
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	%	%	%
Questions 16-34														
16. School is safe	23,956	10455	43.6	11881	49.6	1165	4.9	331	1.4	124	0.5	93.2	4.9	1.9
17. School is clean	23,990	11191	46.6	11354	47.3	620	2.6	620	2.6	205	0.9	94.0	2.6	3.4
18. School is attractive	23,868	9488	39.8	11611	48.6	989	4.1	1412	5.9	368	1.5	88.4	4.1	7.5
19. School provides high quality education	23,883	8808	36.9	11557	48.4	2399	10.0	918	3.8	201	0.8	85.3	10.0	4.7
20. High expectations for my child	23,896	9542	39.9	10816	45.3	2557	10.7	780	3.3	201	0.8	85.2	10.7	4.1
21. Child is challenged academically	23,853	7430	31.1	11735	49.2	2569	10.8	1770	7.4	349	1.5	80.3	10.8	8.9
22. School supports parent concerns	23,815	8410	35.3	11042	46.4	3081	12.9	913	3.8	369	1.5	81.7	12.9	5.4
23. Comfortable visiting school	23,914	13410	56.1	9396	39.3	480	2.0	460	1.9	168	0.7	95.4	2.0	2.6
24. Sufficient opportunities for parent involvement	23,937	13188	55.1	9453	39.5	768	3.2	389	1.6	139	0.6	94.6	3.2	2.2
25. Informed of progress regularly	23,939	11440	47.8	10222	42.7	766	3.2	1215	5.1	296	1.2	90.5	3.2	6.3
26. Informed of school activities	23,969	11429	47.7	10976	45.9	751	3.1	634	2.6	179	0.7	93.5	3.1	3.4
27. Courteous attention when calling school	23,774	10501	44.2	11476	48.3	878	3.7	682	2.9	237	1.0	92.4	3.7	3.9
28. Students well behaved	23,744	5158	21.7	13681	57.6	3631	15.3	1029	4.3	245	1.0	79.3	15.3	5.4
29. The rules of this school are fair	23,663	7754	32.8	13878	58.6	1443	6.1	447	1.9	141	0.6	91.4	6.1	2.5
30. Discipline is handled fairly	23,357	7242	31.0	12711	54.4	2584	11.1	610	2.6	210	0.9	85.4	11.1	3.5
31. Programs help to understand others	23,610	6608	28.0	12933	54.8	3459	14.7	476	2.0	134	0.6	82.8	14.7	2.6
32. It is easy to contact teachers	23,707	8295	35.0	12326	52.0	1687	7.1	1141	4.8	258	1.1	87.0	7.1	5
33. School is too crowded	23,567	3687	15.6	4868	20.7	6569	27.9	6997	29.7	1446	6.1	36.3	27.9	35.8
34. School needs to be renovated	23,523	2852	12.1	3414	14.5	3971	16.9	8687	36.9	4599	19.6	26.6	16.9	56.5

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35. Which have you done during the past 12 months?

	Answer Options			
	Not Selected		Selected	
	N	%	N	%
Questions 35.a.-35.h.				
35.a. Ensured child attended school	876	3.6	23,243	96.4
35.b. Ensured reading material available	1,503	6.2	22,616	93.8
35.c. Ensured homework completed	1,304	5.4	22,815	94.6
35.d. Read/discussed homework	1,243	5.2	22,876	94.8
35.e. Met with teacher/administrator	2,376	9.9	21,743	90.1
35.f. Read to or with child	1,753	7.3	22,366	92.7
35.g. Placed limits on type of TV	2,402	10.0	21,717	90.0
35.h. Placed limits on amount of TV	4,035	16.7	20,084	83.3

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36. Grade I'd give to child's school

q36	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
A	10267	43.67	10267	43.67
B	9645	41.03	19912	84.70
C	2354	10.01	22266	94.71
D	340	1.45	22606	96.16
F	67	0.28	22673	96.44
Do not know	836	3.56	23509	100.00

Frequency Missing = 610

37. Ethnic Group

Q37	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Asian/Pac.Island	940	4.03	940	4.03
African American	3994	17.10	4934	21.13
Native American	62	0.27	4996	21.39
Hispanic	684	2.93	5680	24.32
White	16292	69.77	21972	94.09
Other	392	1.68	22364	95.77
Multi-Racial	988	4.23	23352	100.00

Frequency Missing = 767

38. Level of education of responder

q38	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
High School	2859	12.19	2859	12.19
Some college/trade school	5833	24.88	8692	37.07
College graduate	10605	45.23	19297	82.30
Advanced degree (MA,PhD,MD,etc.)	4149	17.70	23446	100.00

Frequency Missing = 673

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40. Which has a family member done in the past 12 months?

	Answer Options			
	Not Selected		Selected	
	N	%	N	%
Questions 40.a.-40.d.				
40.a. Attended a PTA meeting	12,560	52.1	11,559	47.9
40.b. Attended a school board meeting	22,497	93.3	1,622	6.7
40.c. Watched a school board meeting on TV	21,801	90.4	2,318	9.6
40.d. Volunteered at school regularly	14,970	62.1	9,149	37.9

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		Answer Options										Combined		
		Strongly Agree		Agree		Unsure		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		SA+A	Unde-cided	D+SD
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	%	%	%
Questions 41-48														
41. System improving over time	20,023	1633	8.2	9920	49.5	6724	33.6	1362	6.8	384	1.9	57.7	33.6	8.7
42. System provides high quality education	19,981	2203	11.0	11242	56.3	4438	22.2	1764	8.8	334	1.7	67.3	22.2	10.5
43. System offers opportunities for success to all	19,870	2550	12.8	10732	54.0	4652	23.4	1527	7.7	409	2.1	66.8	23.4	9.7
44. Promote understanding among students	19,823	2097	10.6	10599	53.5	6122	30.9	807	4.1	198	1.0	64.0	30.9	5.1
45. Prompt attention when calling central office	19,209	1947	10.1	6355	33.1	8321	43.3	1857	9.7	729	3.8	43.2	43.3	13.5
46. Understand magnet options	19,649	3191	16.2	9816	50.0	3761	19.1	2105	10.7	776	3.9	66.2	19.1	14.7
47. Magnet preferable to reassignment or forced busing	19,451	5262	27.1	7125	36.6	5487	28.2	947	4.9	630	3.2	63.7	28.2	8.1
48. Magnet program funding important	19,541	5258	26.9	7584	38.8	5089	26.0	1013	5.2	597	3.1	65.7	26.0	8.2

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49. Supported bond last June?

q49	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Yes	6690	34.32	6690	34.32
No	3721	19.09	10411	53.41
Did not vote	9082	46.59	19493	100.00

Frequency Missing = 4626

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50. Which most closely describes why you voted against the bond?

	Answer Options			
	Not Selected		Selected	
	N	%	N	%
Questions 50.a.-50.e.				
50.a. Tax increase too large	21,666	89.8	2,453	10.2
50.b. Amount Money too large one time	22,738	94.3	1,381	5.7
50.c. Did not know how money spent	22,631	93.8	1,488	6.2
50.d. Did not want money used for technology	23,717	98.3	402	1.7
50.e. Did not trust district process	21,691	89.9	2,428	10.1

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Would You Support or Oppose the Following Actions When Schools Become Overcrowded:

		Answer Options										Combined		
		Strongly Support		Support		Not Sure		Oppose		Strongly Oppose		Support	Not sure	Oppose
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	%	%	%
Questions 51.a.-51.g														
51.a. Add several trailers	19,450	1496	7.7	6511	33.5	3591	18.5	4901	25.2	2951	15.2	41.2	18.5	40.4
51.b. All schools Year-Round	19,631	3149	16.0	4876	24.8	3902	19.9	3833	19.5	3871	19.7	40.9	19.9	39.2
51.c. Law allowing more students in class	19,445	330	1.7	697	3.6	1383	7.1	5386	27.7	11649	59.9	5.3	7.1	87.6
51.d. Raise taxes for more schools	18,977	2784	14.7	6916	36.4	4269	22.5	2912	15.3	2096	11.0	51.1	22.5	26.4
51.e. More classes less multi-purpose	19,556	459	2.3	1007	5.1	1614	8.3	6568	33.6	9908	50.7	7.5	8.3	84.3
51.f. Raise taxes more classrooms	19,450	2879	14.8	7929	40.8	4214	21.7	2607	13.4	1821	9.4	55.6	21.7	22.8
.g. Split Sessions AM or PM	19,503	546	2.8	1686	8.6	3659	18.8	4841	24.8	8771	45.0	11.4	18.8	69.8

52. When the School System Builds or Renovates Schools, How Important Is It to Include the Following Spaces?

	Answer Options							
	Very Important		Somewhat Important		Could be Eliminated		Not Sure	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Questions 52.a.-52.k.								
52.a. Cafeteria/Lunch Room	15,283	76.7	3,717	18.7	637	3.2	284	1.4
52.b. Library/Media Center	18,141	91.0	1,487	7.5	160	0.8	158	0.8
52.c. Gymnasium/Multi-purpose Room	14,350	72.1	4,538	22.8	743	3.7	273	1.4
52.d. Auditorium	5,982	30.3	7,076	35.9	5,951	30.2	724	3.7
52.e. Administrative Office Space	8,520	43.2	8,639	43.8	1,784	9.0	788	4.0
52.f. Teacher Workroom	8,116	40.9	7,672	38.7	3,094	15.6	939	4.7
52.g. Computer Labs	14,396	72.4	4,197	21.1	957	4.8	325	1.6
52.h. Playground	13,522	68.1	5,234	26.4	771	3.9	319	1.6
52.i. Conference Room/Meeting Space	3,492	17.7	6,542	33.2	8,755	44.4	943	4.8
52.j. Art/Music Rooms	10,352	52.2	7,144	36.0	1,858	9.4	484	2.4
52.k. Teacher Offices	3,998	20.2	6,451	32.6	7,978	40.3	1,352	6.8

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2. Child's Grade level

q2	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
6	4083	37.64	4083	37.64
7	3454	31.84	7537	69.48
8	3310	30.52	10847	100.00

Frequency Missing = 47

4. Total years child in any WCPSS school

q4	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
1 year or less	809	7.49	809	7.49
2 years	712	6.59	1521	14.07
3 years	717	6.63	2238	20.71
4 years	677	6.26	2915	26.97
5 years	706	6.53	3621	33.51
6 years or more	7186	66.49	10807	100.00

Frequency Missing = 87

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How would you rate this school in helping your child:

	N	Answer Options				Combined Options	
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Excellent/ Good	Fair/Poor
		%	%	%	%	%	%
Questions 5.a.-5.i.							
5.a. Learn reading skills	10,595	21.5	59.9	16.0	2.5	81.4	18.6
5.b. Learn writing skills	10,608	21.9	57.0	18.1	3.0	78.9	21.1
5.c. Learn mathematics skills	10,595	28.9	54.3	14.3	2.5	83.2	16.8
5.d. Learn social studies	10,573	25.6	58.2	14.2	2.0	83.8	16.2
5.e. Learn science	10,563	25.0	57.0	15.6	2.4	82.1	17.9
5.f. Develop sound physical fitness	10,438	19.6	54.1	21.4	4.8	73.7	26.3
5.g. Develop an appreciation for arts	10,379	23.3	44.7	25.1	6.9	68.0	32.0
5.h. Develop good character	10,404	20.3	55.3	21.0	3.4	75.6	24.4
5.i. Learn about the danger of alcohol and other drugs	10,371	22.1	51.5	21.6	4.9	73.5	26.5

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6. Source of most of news about WCPSS

q6	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Newsletters school or PTA	5745	62.92	5745	62.92
Television	1112	12.18	6857	75.10
Newspapers	1385	15.17	8242	90.27
Radio	73	0.80	8315	91.07
Internet	117	1.28	8432	92.35
Phone calls from school	698	7.65	9130	100.00

Frequency Missing = 1764

7. Amount of homework received weekly

q7	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
0-1 hours	642	5.97	642	5.97
2-4 hours	2989	27.79	3631	33.75
5-7 hours	3693	34.33	7324	68.09
8-10 hours	2250	20.92	9574	89.00
Over 10 hours	1183	11.00	10757	100.00

Frequency Missing = 137

8. Amount of homework is

q8	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Too much	1708	15.90	1708	15.90
About right	7785	72.45	9493	88.35
Too little	1221	11.36	10714	99.71
None	31	0.29	10745	100.00

Frequency Missing = 149

9. Child has home access to computer

q9	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Yes	9113	84.49	9113	84.49
No	1673	15.51	10786	100.00

Frequency Missing = 108

10. Child has home access to Internet

q10	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Yes	7891	76.23	7891	76.23
No	2461	23.77	10352	100.00

Frequency Missing = 542

11. Frequency of parental email use

q11	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Not at all	2526	24.08	2526	24.08
Sometimes	1620	15.44	4146	39.52
Weekly	1719	16.39	5865	55.91
Daily	4626	44.09	10491	100.00

Frequency Missing = 403

12. My child's bus has most often been

q12	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
On time	5599	52.96	5599	52.96
Early	238	2.25	5837	55.21
Late	876	8.29	6713	63.49
Unpredictable	1607	15.20	8320	78.69
Not Applicable	2253	21.31	10573	100.00

Frequency Missing = 321

13. Adequate communication with bus driver

q13	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Yes	1418	13.40	1418	13.40
No	1589	15.01	3007	28.41
No communication	5076	47.95	8083	76.36
Not applicable	2502	23.64	10585	100.00

Frequency Missing = 309

14. Level of education expected of child

q14	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
High School	283	2.64	283	2.64
Some college/trade school	649	6.06	932	8.71
College graduate	5092	47.56	6024	56.27
Advanced degree(MA, PhD, MD, etc.)	4682	43.73	10706	100.00

Frequency Missing = 188

15. Race relations at school are

q15	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Excellent	911	8.48	911	8.48
Very good	2011	18.71	2922	27.19
Good	3965	36.89	6887	64.08
Fair	1665	15.49	8552	79.58
Poor	460	4.28	9012	83.86
Do not know	1735	16.14	10747	100.00

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		Answer Options										Combined		
		Strongly Agree		Agree		Unsure		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		SA+A	Unde-cided	D+SD
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	%	%	%
Questions 16-34														
16. School is safe	10,783	2213	20.5	6447	59.8	1579	14.6	420	3.9	124	1.1	80.3	14.6	5.0
17. School is clean	10,798	2605	24.1	6298	58.3	911	8.4	778	7.2	206	1.9	82.5	8.4	9.1
18. School is attractive	10,728	2327	21.7	5692	53.1	894	8.3	1496	13.9	319	3.0	74.7	8.3	16.9
19. School provides high quality education	10,747	2626	24.4	5832	54.3	1512	14.1	643	6.0	134	1.2	78.7	14.1	7.2
20. High expectations for my child	10,769	2834	26.3	5344	49.6	1881	17.5	545	5.1	165	1.5	75.9	17.5	6.6
21. Child is challenged academically	10,752	2248	20.9	5645	52.5	1550	14.4	1109	10.3	200	1.9	73.4	14.4	12.2
22. School supports parent concerns	10,715	2073	19.3	5158	48.1	2446	22.8	760	7.1	278	2.6	67.5	22.8	9.7
23. Comfortable visiting school	10,751	3282	30.5	6274	58.4	657	6.1	402	3.7	136	1.3	88.9	6.1	5.0
24. Sufficient opportunities for parent involvement	10,767	2621	24.3	5985	55.6	1399	13.0	624	5.8	138	1.3	79.9	13.0	7.1
25. Informed of progress regularly	10,780	2482	23.0	5357	49.7	793	7.4	1737	16.1	411	3.8	72.7	7.4	19.9
26. Informed of school activities	10,787	2153	20.0	6036	56.0	1004	9.3	1268	11.8	326	3.0	75.9	9.3	14.8
27. Courteous attention when calling school	10,755	2934	27.3	6010	55.9	971	9.0	615	5.7	225	2.1	83.2	9.0	7.8
28. Students well behaved	10,697	759	7.1	5295	49.5	3187	29.8	1084	10.1	372	3.5	56.6	29.8	13.6
29. The rules of this school are fair	10,705	1716	16.0	7008	65.5	1236	11.5	569	5.3	176	1.6	81.5	11.5	7.0
30. Discipline is handled fairly	10,423	1570	15.1	5995	57.5	2050	19.7	590	5.7	218	2.1	72.6	19.7	7.8
31. Programs help to understand others	10,613	1174	11.1	5324	50.2	3360	31.7	590	5.6	165	1.6	61.2	31.7	7.1
32. It is easy to contact teachers	10,644	1617	15.2	5555	52.2	2013	18.9	1134	10.7	325	3.1	67.4	18.9	13.7
33. School is too crowded	10,622	1779	16.7	2647	24.9	3578	33.7	2270	21.4	348	3.3	41.7	33.7	24.6
34. School needs to be renovated	10,587	1792	16.9	2173	20.5	2095	19.8	3283	31.0	1244	11.8	37.5	19.8	42.8

WCPSS Parent Survey - Fall, 1999
All Middle Schools

35. Which have you done during the past 12 months?

	Answer Options			
	Not Selected		Selected	
	N	%	N	%
Questions 35.a.-35.g.				
35.a. Ensured child attended school	518	4.8	10,376	95.2
35.b. Ensured reading material available	1,259	11.6	9,635	88.4
35.c. Ensured homework completed	970	8.9	9,924	91.1
35.d. Read/discussed homework	1,322	12.1	9,572	87.9
35.e. Met with teacher/administrator	4,260	39.1	6,634	60.9
35.f. Placed limits on type of TV	2,369	21.7	8,525	78.3
35.g. Placed limits on amount of TV	3,054	28.0	7,840	72.0

WCPSS Parent Survey - Fall, 1999
All Middle Schools

36. Grade I'd give to child's school

q36	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
A	2641	24.87	2641	24.87
B	4966	46.76	7607	71.63
C	1927	18.15	9534	89.77
D	408	3.84	9942	93.62
F	117	1.10	10059	94.72
Do not know	561	5.28	10620	100.00

Frequency Missing = 274

37. Ethnic Group

Q37	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Asian/Pac.Island	441	4.18	441	4.18
African American	1998	18.96	2439	23.14
Native American	29	0.28	2468	23.42
Hispanic	278	2.64	2746	26.06
White	7224	68.55	9970	94.60
Other	198	1.88	10168	96.48
Multi-Racial	371	3.52	10539	100.00

Frequency Missing = 355

38. Level of education of responder

q38	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
High School	1483	14.07	1483	14.07
Some college/trade school	2797	26.53	4280	40.60
College graduate	4489	42.58	8769	83.17
Advanced degree (MA,PhD,MD,etc.)	1774	16.83	10543	100.00

Frequency Missing = 351

WCPSS Parent Survey - Fall, 1999
All Middle Schools

40. Which has a family member done in the past 12 months?

	Answer Options			
	Not Selected		Selected	
	N	%	N	%
Questions 40.a.-40.d.				
40.a. Attended a PTA meeting	6,071	55.7	4,823	44.3
40.b. Attended a school board meeting	10,153	93.2	741	6.8
40.c. Watched a school board meeting on TV	9,638	88.5	1,256	11.5
40.d. Volunteered at school regularly	8,421	77.3	2,473	22.7

WCPSS Parent Survey - Fall, 1999
All Middle Schools

		Answer Options										Combined		
		Strongly Agree		Agree		Unsure		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		SA+A	Unde-cided	D+SD
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	%	%	%
Questions 41-48														
41. System improving over time	9,524	675	7.1	4804	50.4	3009	31.6	825	8.7	211	2.2	57.5	31.6	10.9
42. System provides high quality education	9,504	857	9.0	5257	55.3	2136	22.5	1068	11.2	186	2.0	64.3	22.5	13.2
43. System offers opportunities for success to all	9,430	1001	10.6	5016	53.2	2200	23.3	970	10.3	243	2.6	63.8	23.3	12.9
44. Promote understanding among students	9,413	718	7.6	4611	49.0	3290	35.0	647	6.9	147	1.6	56.6	35.0	8.4
45. Prompt attention when calling central office	9,249	797	8.6	3307	35.8	3708	40.1	1028	11.1	409	4.4	44.4	40.1	15.5
46. Understand magnet options	9,312	1447	15.5	5206	55.9	1614	17.3	721	7.7	324	3.5	71.4	17.3	11.2
47. Magnet preferable to reassignment or forced busing	9,237	2175	23.5	3616	39.1	2540	27.5	529	5.7	377	4.1	62.7	27.5	9.8
48. Magnet program funding important	9,299	2172	23.4	3790	40.8	2316	24.9	629	6.8	392	4.2	64.1	24.9	11.0

WCPSS Parent Survey - Fall, 1999
All Middle Schools

49. Supported bond last June?

q49	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Yes	3144	33.94	3144	33.94
No	1973	21.30	5117	55.24
Did not vote	4147	44.76	9264	100.00

Frequency Missing = 1630

WCPSS Parent Survey - Fall, 1999
All Middle Schools

50. Which most closely describes why you voted against the bond?

	Answer Options			
	Not Selected		Selected	
	N	%	N	%
Questions 50.a.-50.e.				
50.a. Tax increase too large	9,590	88.0	1,304	12.0
50.b. Amount Money too large one time	10,093	92.6	801	7.4
50.c. Did not know how money spent	10,076	92.5	818	7.5
50.d. Did not want money used for technology	10,687	98.1	207	1.9
50.e. Did not trust district process	9,549	87.7	1,345	12.3

WCPSS Parent Survey - Fall, 1999
All Middle Schools

Would You Support or Oppose the Following Actions When Schools Become Overcrowded:

		Answer Options										Combined		
		Strongly Support		Support		Not Sure		Oppose		Strongly Oppose		Support	Not sure	Oppose
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	%	%	%
Questions 51.a.-51.g														
51.a. Add several trailers	9,256	711	7.7	3371	36.4	1657	17.9	2273	24.6	1244	13.4	44.1	17.9	38.0
51.b. All schools Year-Round	9,340	1227	13.1	2282	24.4	1805	19.3	1910	20.4	2116	22.7	37.6	19.3	43.1
51.c. Law allowing more students in class	9,233	178	1.9	459	5.0	851	9.2	2901	31.4	4844	52.5	6.9	9.2	83.9
51.d. Raise taxes for more schools	8,956	1165	13.0	3031	33.8	2016	22.5	1578	17.6	1166	13.0	46.9	22.5	30.6
51.e. More classes less multi-purpose	9,286	250	2.7	543	5.8	893	9.6	3344	36.0	4256	45.8	8.5	9.6	81.8
51.f. Raise taxes more classrooms	9,208	1165	12.7	3624	39.4	1992	21.6	1422	15.4	1005	10.9	52.0	21.6	26.4
51.g. Split Sessions AM or PM	9,269	390	4.2	1007	10.9	1905	20.6	2321	25.0	3646	39.3	15.1	20.6	64.4

WCPSS Parent Survey - Fall, 1999
All Middle Schools

52. When the School System Builds or Renovates Schools, How Important Is It to Include the Following Spaces?

	Answer Options							
	Very Important		Somewhat Important		Could be Eliminated		Not Sure	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Questions 52.a.-52.k.								
52.a. Cafeteria/Lunch Room	6,956	73.5	2,041	21.6	294	3.1	173	1.8
52.b. Library/Media Center	8,267	87.2	968	10.2	148	1.6	99	1.0
52.c. Gymnasium/Multi-purpose Room	6,420	68.1	2,419	25.6	437	4.6	156	1.7
52.d. Auditorium	3,558	38.0	3,468	37.0	2,048	21.9	296	3.2
52.e. Administrative Office Space	3,793	40.4	4,134	44.1	1,059	11.3	394	4.2
52.f. Teacher Workroom	3,514	37.5	3,691	39.4	1,747	18.6	423	4.5
52.g. Computer Labs	6,881	73.0	2,030	21.5	366	3.9	145	1.5
52.h. Playground	4,091	43.7	3,354	35.9	1,549	16.6	359	3.8
52.i. Conference Room/Meeting Space	1,731	18.5	3,149	33.7	4,017	43.0	451	4.8
52.j. Art/Music Rooms	4,621	49.0	3,598	38.2	914	9.7	288	3.1
52.k. Teacher Offices	1,918	20.5	3,105	33.1	3,736	39.9	616	6.6

WCPSS Parent Survey - Fall, 1999
All High Schools

2. Child's Grade level

q2	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
9th	2696	31.50	2696	31.50
10th	2285	26.69	4981	58.19
11th	1932	22.57	6913	80.76
12th	1647	19.24	8560	100.00

Frequency Missing = 46

4. Total years child in any WCPSS school

q4	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
1 year or less	602	7.04	602	7.04
2 years	488	5.71	1090	12.75
3 years	560	6.55	1650	19.29
4 years	508	5.94	2158	25.23
5 years	527	6.16	2685	31.40
6 years or more	5867	68.60	8552	100.00

Frequency Missing = 54

WCPSS Parent Survey - Fall, 1999
All High Schools

How would you rate this school in helping your child:

	N	Answer Options				Combined Options	
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Excellent/ Good	Fair/Poor
		%	%	%	%	%	%
Questions 5.a.-5.l.							
5.a. Learn reading skills	8,281	20.1	59.5	17.4	3.1	79.6	20.4
5.b. Learn writing skills	8,301	21.2	56.7	18.7	3.4	77.9	22.1
5.c. Learn mathematics skills	8,326	25.7	53.1	16.4	4.8	78.8	21.2
5.d. Learn social studies	8,288	22.2	57.3	17.1	3.4	79.5	20.5
5.e. Learn science	8,266	23.2	55.9	17.2	3.7	79.1	20.9
5.f. Develop sound physical fitness	8,146	18.7	47.2	24.6	9.4	66.0	34.0
5.g. Develop an appreciation for arts	8,078	21.3	39.8	28.9	10.1	61.1	38.9
5.h. Develop good character	8,070	18.1	51.2	24.5	6.3	69.3	30.7
5.i. Learn about the danger of alcohol and other drugs	8,097	16.5	46.0	27.4	10.2	62.4	37.6
5.j. Prepare for college	8,181	22.6	50.3	21.8	5.2	72.9	27.1
5.k. Prepare for the military	6,893	10.2	35.9	35.6	18.3	46.1	53.9
5.l. Prepare for jobs	7,726	15.6	47.4	28.9	8.1	63.0	37.0

WCPSS Parent Survey : Fall, 1999
All High Schools

6. Source of most of news about WCPSS

q6	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Newsletters school or PTA	4390	59.81	4390	59.81
Television	1196	16.29	5586	76.10
Newspapers	1110	15.12	6696	91.23
Radio	85	1.16	6781	92.38
Internet	111	1.51	6892	93.90
Phone calls from school	448	6.10	7340	100.00

Frequency Missing = 1266

7. Amount of homework received weekly

q7	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
0-1 hours	484	5.70	484	5.70
2-4 hours	2062	24.30	2546	30.00
5-7 hours	2334	27.50	4880	57.50
8-10 hours	1737	20.47	6617	77.97
Over 10 hours	1870	22.03	8487	100.00

Frequency Missing = 119

8. Amount of homework is

q8	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Too much	1827	21.59	1827	21.59
About right	5664	66.93	7491	88.53
Too little	906	10.71	8397	99.23
None	65	0.77	8462	100.00

Frequency Missing = 144

9. Child has home access to computer

q9	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Yes	7469	87.58	7469	87.58
No	1059	12.42	8528	100.00

Frequency Missing = 78

10. Child has home access to Internet

q10	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Yes	6642	80.64	6642	80.64
No	1595	19.36	8237	100.00

Frequency Missing = 369

11. Frequency of parental email use

q11	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Not at all	1679	20.06	1679	20.06
Sometimes	1327	15.86	3006	35.92
Weekly	1309	15.64	4315	51.56
Daily	4054	48.44	8369	100.00

Frequency Missing = 237

12. My child's bus has most often been

q12	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
On time	2548	30.97	2548	30.97
Early	158	1.92	2706	32.89
Late	394	4.79	3100	37.68
Unpredictable	905	11.00	4005	48.68
Not Applicable	4222	51.32	8227	100.00

Frequency Missing = 379

13. Adequate communication with bus driver

q13	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Yes	428	5.19	428	5.19
No	917	11.12	1345	16.31
No communication	2533	30.72	3878	47.03
Not applicable	4367	52.97	8245	100.00

Frequency Missing = 361

14. Level of education expected of child

q14	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
High School	222	2.62	222	2.62
Some college/trade school	645	7.60	867	10.22
College graduate	4019	47.36	4886	57.58
Advanced degree(MA, PhD, MD, etc.)	3600	42.42	8486	100.00

Frequency Missing = 120

15. Race relations at school are

q15	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Excellent	554	6.56	554	6.56
Very good	1322	15.65	1876	22.21
Good	3101	36.72	4977	58.93
Fair	1586	18.78	6563	77.71
Poor	555	6.57	7118	84.29
Do not know	1327	15.71	8445	100.00

WCPSS Parent Survey - Fall, 1999
All High Schools

		Answer Options										Combined		
		Strongly Agree		Agree		Unsure		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		SA+A	Undecided	D+SD
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	%	%	%
Questions 16-34														
16. School is safe	8,500	1289	15.2	5194	61.1	1431	16.8	394	4.6	192	2.3	76.3	16.8	6.9
17. School is clean	8,516	1737	20.4	4648	54.6	942	11.1	868	10.2	321	3.8	75.0	11.1	14.0
18. School is attractive	8,468	1795	21.2	4493	53.1	811	9.6	1074	12.7	295	3.5	74.3	9.6	16.2
19. School provides high quality education	8,490	1880	22.1	4649	54.8	1223	14.4	562	6.6	176	2.1	76.9	14.4	8.7
20. High expectations for my child	8,487	1885	22.2	4033	47.5	1737	20.5	610	7.2	222	2.6	69.7	20.5	9.8
21. Child is challenged academically	8,485	1774	20.9	4309	50.8	1360	16.0	879	10.4	163	1.9	71.7	16.0	12.3
22. School supports parent concerns	8,443	1226	14.5	3776	44.7	2176	25.8	823	9.7	442	5.2	59.2	25.8	15.0
23. Comfortable visiting school	8,474	2120	25.0	4993	58.9	745	8.8	439	5.2	177	2.1	83.9	8.8	7.3
24. Sufficient opportunities for parent involvement	8,460	1693	20.0	4593	54.3	1413	16.7	575	6.8	186	2.2	74.3	16.7	9.0
25. Informed of progress regularly	8,479	1687	19.9	4374	51.6	666	7.9	1342	15.8	410	4.8	71.5	7.9	20.7
26. Informed of school activities	8,489	1345	15.8	4481	52.8	1014	11.9	1249	14.7	400	4.7	68.6	11.9	19.4
27. Courteous attention when calling school	8,480	1718	20.3	4499	53.1	1095	12.9	744	8.8	424	5.0	73.3	12.9	13.8
28. Students well behaved	8,429	540	6.4	4042	48.0	2593	30.8	912	10.8	342	4.1	54.4	30.8	14.9
29. The rules of this school are fair	8,427	1032	12.2	5126	60.8	1213	14.4	725	8.6	331	3.9	73.1	14.4	12.5
30. Discipline is handled fairly	8,117	994	12.2	4353	53.6	1856	22.9	568	7.0	346	4.3	65.9	22.9	11.3
31. Programs help to understand others	8,296	724	8.7	3780	45.6	2892	34.9	650	7.8	250	3.0	54.3	34.9	10.8
32. It is easy to contact teachers	8,358	1034	12.4	4137	49.5	1721	20.6	1114	13.3	352	4.2	61.9	20.6	17.5
33. School is too crowded	8,369	1940	23.2	2528	30.2	2112	25.2	1486	17.8	303	3.6	53.4	25.2	21.4
34. School needs to be renovated	8,286	1332	16.1	2014	24.3	1644	19.8	2135	25.8	1161	14.0	40.4	19.8	39.8

WCPSS Parent Survey - Fall, 1999
All High Schools

35. Which have you done during the past 12 months?

	Answer Options			
	Not Selected		Selected	
	N	%	N	%
Questions 35.a.-35.g.				
35.a. Ensured child attended school	770	8.9	7,836	91.1
35.b. Ensured reading material available	2,267	26.3	6,339	73.7
35.c. Ensured homework completed	1,970	22.9	6,636	77.1
35.d. Read/discussed homework	2,637	30.6	5,969	69.4
35.e. Met with teacher/administrator	4,576	53.2	4,030	46.8
35.f. Placed limits on type of TV	4,599	53.4	4,007	46.6
35.g. Placed limits on amount of TV	4,548	52.8	4,058	47.2

WCPSS Parent Survey - Fall, 1999
All High Schools

36. Grade I'd give to child's school

q36	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
A	1616	19.35	1616	19.35
B	3759	45.01	5375	64.36
C	1966	23.54	7341	87.90
D	437	5.23	7778	93.13
F	194	2.32	7972	95.45
Do not know	380	4.55	8352	100.00

Frequency Missing = 254

37. Ethnic Group

Q37	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Asian/Pac.Island	395	4.75	395	4.75
African American	1380	16.58	1775	21.33
Native American	37	0.44	1812	21.77
Hispanic	213	2.56	2025	24.33
White	5810	69.81	7835	94.14
Other	197	2.37	8032	96.50
Multi-Racial	291	3.50	8323	100.00

Frequency Missing = 283

38. Level of education of responder

q38	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
High School	1203	14.41	1203	14.41
Some college/trade school	2003	24.00	3206	38.41
College graduate	3526	42.24	6732	80.65
Advanced degree (MA,PhD,MD,etc.)	1615	19.35	8347	100.00

Frequency Missing = 259

WCPSS Parent Survey - Fall, 1999
All High Schools

40. Which has a family member done in the past 12 months?

	Answer Options			
	Not Selected		Selected	
	N	%	N	%
Questions 40.a.-40.d.				
40.a. Attended a PTA meeting	5,690	66.1	2,916	33.9
40.b. Attended a school board meeting	7,981	92.7	625	7.3
40.c. Watched a school board meeting on TV	7,674	89.2	932	10.8
40.d. Volunteered at school regularly	7,107	82.6	1,499	17.4

WCPSS Parent Survey - Fall, 1999
All High Schools

		Answer Options										Combined		
		Strongly Agree		Agree		Unsure		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		SA+A	Unde-cided	D+SD
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	%	%	%
Questions 41-48														
41. System improving over time	7,544	509	6.7	3958	52.5	2108	27.9	741	9.8	228	3.0	59.2	27.9	12.8
42. System provides high quality education	7,530	658	8.7	4141	55.0	1684	22.4	855	11.4	192	2.5	63.7	22.4	13.9
43. System offers opportunities for success to all	7,475	774	10.4	3860	51.6	1768	23.7	807	10.8	266	3.6	62.0	23.7	14.4
44. Promote understanding among students	7,459	497	6.7	3462	46.4	2650	35.5	639	8.6	211	2.8	53.1	35.5	11.4
45. Prompt attention when calling central office	7,313	571	7.8	2694	36.8	2743	37.5	882	12.1	423	5.8	44.6	37.5	17.8
46. Understand magnet options	7,382	1078	14.6	4043	54.8	1400	19.0	607	8.2	254	3.4	69.4	19.0	11.7
47. Magnet preferable to reassignment or forced busing	7,359	1409	19.1	3046	41.4	2057	28.0	475	6.5	372	5.1	60.5	28.0	11.5
48. Magnet program funding important	7,389	1332	18.0	2994	40.5	2038	27.6	591	8.0	434	5.9	58.5	27.6	13.9

WCPSS Parent Survey - Fall, 1999
All High Schools

49. Supported bond last June?

q49	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Yes	2325	31.74	2325	31.74
No	1791	24.45	4116	56.18
Did not vote	3210	43.82	7326	100.00

Frequency Missing = 1280

WCPSS Parent Survey - Fall, 1999
All High Schools

50. Which most closely describes why you voted against the bond?

	Answer Options			
	Not Selected		Selected	
	N	%	N	%
Questions 50.a.-50.e.				
50.a. Tax increase too large	7,428	86.3	1,178	13.7
50.b. Amount Money too large one time	7,912	91.9	694	8.1
50.c. Did not know how money spent	7,888	91.7	718	8.3
50.d. Did not want money used for technology	8,401	97.6	205	2.4
50.e. Did not trust district process	7,409	86.1	1,197	13.9

WCPSS Parent Survey - Fall, 1999
All High Schools

Would You Support or Oppose the Following Actions When Schools Become Overcrowded:

		Answer Options										Combined		
		Strongly Support		Support		Not Sure		Oppose		Strongly Oppose		Support	Not sure	Oppose
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	%	%	%
Questions 51.a.-51.g														
51.a. Add several trailers	7,304	584	8.0	2667	36.5	1282	17.6	1806	24.7	965	13.2	44.5	17.6	37.9
51.b. All schools Year-Round	7,367	715	9.7	1649	22.4	1378	18.7	1655	22.5	1970	26.7	32.1	18.7	49.2
51.c. Law allowing more students in class	7,284	175	2.4	517	7.1	850	11.7	2453	33.7	3289	45.2	9.5	11.7	78.8
51.d. Raise taxes for more schools	7,125	739	10.4	2236	31.4	1673	23.5	1422	20.0	1055	14.8	41.8	23.5	34.8
51.e. More classes less multi-purpose	7,296	273	3.7	607	8.3	839	11.5	2630	36.0	2947	40.4	12.1	11.5	76.4
51.f. Raise taxes more classrooms	7,296	845	11.6	2691	36.9	1626	22.3	1215	16.7	919	12.6	48.5	22.3	29.2
51.g. Split Sessions AM or PM	7,318	541	7.4	1223	16.7	1566	21.4	1666	22.8	2322	31.7	24.1	21.4	54.5

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52. When the School System Builds or Renovates Schools, How Important Is It to Include the Following Spaces?

	Answer Options							
	Very Important		Somewhat Important		Could be Eliminated		Not Sure	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Questions 52.a.-52.k.								
52.a. Cafeteria/Lunch Room	5,096	68.4	1,885	25.3	316	4.2	150	2.0
52.b. Library/Media Center	6,166	82.8	964	12.9	213	2.9	106	1.4
52.c. Gymnasium/Multi-purpose Room	4,539	61.2	2,203	29.7	519	7.0	153	2.1
52.d. Auditorium	3,256	44.1	2,642	35.8	1,269	17.2	223	3.0
52.e. Administrative Office Space	2,707	36.7	3,171	43.0	1,155	15.7	339	4.6
52.f. Teacher Workroom	2,482	33.7	2,885	39.2	1,649	22.4	353	4.8
52.g. Computer Labs	5,173	69.8	1,763	23.8	341	4.6	132	1.8
52.h. Playground	2,407	32.8	2,384	32.5	2,118	28.9	431	5.9
52.i. Conference Room/Meeting Space	1,363	18.5	2,507	34.0	3,098	42.0	404	5.5
52.j. Art/Music Rooms	3,366	45.4	2,912	39.3	848	11.4	282	3.8
52.k. Teacher Offices	1,517	20.5	2,594	35.1	2,833	38.4	443	6.0

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